Numb. 5.

Westminster Projects:

OR,

The Mystery of Iniquity

OF

Darby-House

Discovered.

A Plot, a Plot, our Saviours cry,
But dare it not declare,
Because alas! they know full well,
Themselves the Traitors are.

Yet though they think themselves secure,
And juggle with the City,
(Who are deluded once againe,
And cheated, more's the pity;)

Yet yet them know, their knavery shall
To all the world appeare:
For, I'le not keep their secrets, I,
For flatterie or feare.

Printed, no body knowes where; licensed, no body knows when; and sent into the world by the appointment of the said Committee, because they could not help it, in this yeare of their vexation, 1648.

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VVestminster Projects.

IT is strange, that in a time of Reformation there should be so much wickednesse, and in high places too: that Westminster should after all its seeming sanctity, become such a Den of Devills, such a Cage of unclean Birds; but what remedy? what is past cure, must be past care also.

But yet it is requisite that they should be knowne; for Knaves unknowne passe for honest men, and there is not such a subtill deceiver in the world, as an Angell of light: a Devill in the shape of a Saint, (especially at Westminster) hath done more mischief, then all the honest men there can ever do good: I confesse it a wonder there is no more hurt done, considering honest men are so scarce there, and knaves so plentifull; for you can scarce peep into a Committee, but you shall find ten, if there be eleven in the number, two in a Committee is a miracle; nay, if you find one in the Committee of Derby, I'le give you leave to hang him, though my Lord *Say* himselfe be there: But now I talke of that Committee, I will tell you strange newes, they have done the Kingdome good service; and is not that a wonder in a Committee? And if you aske how, I must tell you they have discovered a Plot, and well they might, if you knew all, you would say so; for as sure as I live they made it, *the Fox is the finder*, and for fear others should discover it, they did it themselves, you know it is good to cry Whore first; but you may observe the knavery of the Baker: They tell us of a Plot against the Kingdome, Parliament and City, but by whom they know not, not one actor or

contriver is discovered; and why thinke you? becauſe the Earle of *Northumberland*, the Chaire-man of the Committee thinks it not convenient, for fear he ſhould be troubled to purchaſe the life of another *Waller* to ſecure his head from the Block: But becauſe you ſhall not be kept in ignorance, know their Proverb is verified, there is ſeldome much ſmoke, but there is ſome fire; ſo you ſhall find, that there is not only a talk of a Plot, but ſuch a plot indeed, as tends to the ruine and deſtruction of all honeſt men in the Kingdome: The particulars thus.

1 For the ſeverall Counties of Eſſex, Surrey and Kent, the ground and growth of their late Petitions proceeded and had their births from a party in the Houſes of Parliament, being Members of the Committee of Derby-houſe, with other of their creatures, the Earle of *Warwick* was the firſt promoter of Eſſex Petition, Sir *Arthur Anſlo* of Surrey, and Sir Simpleton *Walſingham*, with other of his Adherents were drawn into the preſent ingagement of Kent.

2. For London and the parts adjacent, there hath been a deſigne of liſting many thouſands, and putting them into Armes, which deſigne hath had its riſe and birth from the treacherous braine of *Algernon Percy*, whoſe name and family never were found to be faithfull, either to God or their Countrey; and it may be boldly averred, that he was never other then a Traytor to the Kingdome ſince the late Warre, witneſſe the plot for which *Tompkins* and *Challenor* were murthered, wherein the Earle of *Northumberland* was a chiefe Actor with *Waller*, and therefore though *Waller* was the greateſt offender, as having ingaged others, yet he muſt be ſold to the Earl of *Northumberland* for

ſome

ſome thouſands of pounds, and by him conveighed into France, not only to conceale his Knavery, but to be his Agent, to keep up his credit with the Queen, and give him intelligence what the Queene deſires ſhould be effected. This is the reaſon why you have no further diſcovery of this dangerous plot, whereas had the finders been free, you ſhould have had them proclaimed the Authors names, impriſoned them, ſeized their eſtates, &c. and had a day of Thankſgiving, whereas now you ſee them rather deſire a day of Humiliation for ſorrow that they were ſo ſoon diſcovered.

Neither is this honoured Gentleman without other accomplices, for there is a Cabinet-Councell of them, to wit, Sir *William Lewis*, Sir *John Clotworthy*, the *Earle of Holland*, the *Counteſſe of Carliſle*, Doctor *Fraper* a *Scot*, Sir *Peter Killigrew*, *cum multis aliis*, all which receive conſtant intelligence from the Queen, and act accordingly, and by their deſignement are all theſe commotions and troubles which threaten the Kingdome; to that end is the Earle of *Northumbealand* Chaire-man of the Committee of Safety at Derby-houſe, to the end he may be inabled to retard proceedings, eſpecially if they croſſe the ends they aime at: But becauſe you ſhall ſee that I ſpeake more then probabilities, (although my neer relation to them would hinder) yet I will clearly diſcover unto you the very bottome of their deſign.

In order to which give me leave to informe you, that the quarrell betwixt the Factions in the Houſes, is now not whether the King ſhall be brought in, but who ſhall bring him in, and who ſhall be the Princes of the People under him, when brought in. The Roy-

all

all Presbyterian and Independent, (for there are such of both sorts, as *Northumberland*, *Warwick*, *Say*, *Crummell*, *Ireton*, *Vane*, *Senior*, *Vane Junior*, &c. they would bring in the King upon their accompt, and make such an agreement with him, as might not only secure them with safety, but advance them to honour also: The reall Presbyterian, and reall Independent, they are willing to bring in the King; but they would first have the King secure unto them Religion, Law, and the Liberties of the Nation, but alack they are but a few, and their tale cannot be heard, for the cry of others is, *Let us use the best means we can to satisfie the King*, no matter what becomes of the Kingdome: And to this end have they underhand promoted and procured these tumults, so that thereby they might force the House to an adjournment, which is the chiefe thing they desire, and if procured, then all the power will reside in that Committee.

And because they will be sure to doe their worke, they have endeavoured to bring in seven Lords more, into them, namely, their whole House, which if effected, we shall be troubled no more with a House of Peers, or Parliament, but must be governed by a Committee of Estates, and by the power of the Army, (which by the assistants of their Grandee Janisaries, to wit Sultan *Cromwell*, Bashaw *Ireton*, &c. they doubt not but to quell all their opposers, and make such a peace with the King, as shall secure their power or set up another, which shall be but a Cypher, to bear the blame of their misgovernment, and please the people withall, who they say, would be quiet, if they had any thing like a King, though never so powerless or witless.

And now give me leave to pity those Gentlemen and

others

others who so freely enter into an Ingagement upon such slender grounds, and never weigh the consequence of such undertakings. Did the Gentlemen of Essex, Surrey, and Kent, with other the Free-holders but conceive how these men hug themselves with the sweet apprehensions of their accomplishing their designs by their actings, yea, I say, did they but as I doe, heare and see with what contentment of spirit they receive the tidings of such their tumultuous approaches, and indeavours to terrifie and dissolve the Parliament, and with what undervaluing words they speak of them, as knowing themselves able when they please to crush them and bring them under the lash; and did they (I say) but with me know, that all their delayes therein, is but to give time to the Parliament to chew upon their fears, (which they by their creatures indeavour to heighten) that so they might be necessitated to adjourne, and look for their own security, they would more suddenly have manifested their spleen, & by the power of the sword destroyed those that have thus ignorantly prosecuted what they themselves so cunningly designed.

Neither can I choose but pittie the Kings friends, when I consider into what a snare they have run themselves: I make no question but that they did cordially intend their assistance for the Kings restauration, but by these actings (as these Polititians have ordered it) they have contributed assistance to the Kings ruine: for they must know, that if the House adjourne, and these seeming stormes be once blown over, if the King will not grant what they desire, these actings (though by themselves designed and promoted) shall be charged upon the Kings accompt, and brought as arguments to justifie their future dealings with him.

Thus you see the wits of the time out-witted, and the proverb verified, *All is not gold that glisters.* Here you see a whole Kingdome abused, and in danger to be inslaved to advance the interest of foure and twenty K.....O that Englishmen would be wise, and at last,

laſt, before it bee too late, by an happy union ſeek the eſtabliſhment of *iuſtice* and *freedome*.

Can you ever expect happineſſe from extremes? can you find certainty in uncertainties? or doe you ever look to get peace by warre, order by confuſion? certainly no rationall man can be ſo beſotted as to imagine, that certain rules of government could be a burden to him, ſeeing onely uncertainty hath occaſioned all our trouble? Had the Kings power and the Parliaments Priviledges been limited and declared, the exerciſe of the *Militia* could never have cauſed ſuch a bloudy diſpute: And I do conceive it is not our work now to conteſt for preſerving the now-eſtabliſhed Lawes, ſince we have experimentally found many of them to be burthenſome and deſtructive in themſelves, none of them (by reaſon of abuſe and corruption) a protection to us in our liberties or properties: but to labour for ſuch an eſtabliſhment for the future, as may be a certain and ſafe rule for Kings, Parliaments and People to walk by, ſince neither in reaſon ought to be abſolved from obedience to all juſt Lawes; or left to govern, or be governed, by the dictates of luſt, will or pleaſure.

This rule muſt make us happy, this muſt be
The happy meanes to make this People free:
Lawes juſt and equall, now, can onely bring
Peace to the Nation, honour to the King.
Unite then quickly; 'tis your union muſt
Force your oppreſſors to be truly juſt:
And without you unite, you ſtrive in vaine,
Juſtice or Freedome ever to obtaine.
Strike hands then boldly, yeeld not to be ſlaves
To cruell Tyrants, nor to ſubtill Knaves.

FINIS.

72726

Numb.6.

Weſtminſter Projects

OR THE

Myſtery of Iniquity

OF THE

Committee of Darby Houſe DISCOVERED.

Plot on great *Wharton* and contrive
to ſave the Houſe of Peers;
For if the King do but ſurvive
He'l pull them by the ears.
Pray ſend for *Say*, and *St. Johns* too,
and ſtudy ſome device,
To cheat the Kingdom once again:
Y'ave done it neatly twice.
The Proverb is, *beware the third*;
For if you make a blort
'Tis ten to one, you loſe your heads;
and then you'l ſpoil the ſport:
For I ſhould very ſorry be,
you ſhould ſuch honour have,
A Halter I could well afford,
the portion of a knave.

Printed no body knows where, licenced no body knows when, and ſent into the world by the appointment of the ſaid Committee, becauſe they could not help it, in the year of their vexation. 1648.

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Weſtminſter Projects.

WHat a ſtrange age are we fallen into? where nothing but *knavery* is practiſed, and nothing but *Religion* profeſſed; *ſeeming holineſs* hath cauſed our *unhappineſs*, and we are cheated into *ſlavery*, by fair promiſes of *Freedom* and *Liberty*; *O tempora! O mores!* O times! O manners! whom ſhall we beleeve or truſt, if not thoſe that are ſeemingly clothed with righteouſneſs; who with ſuch zeal dare call the God of Heaven to evidence the ſincerity of their hearts, in that they had no other end or intention then the advancement of His Majeſty and the Peace of the Kingdom?

But alas, alas, Great men are ſubject to forgetfulneſs, eſpecially when their honor and promotion ſtand in competition with their Religion; witneſs our ambitious Lords, and oppreſſing Grandees, who ſeven years ago preacht a doctrine, that the King might not oppreſs, but now they tell us they may: A King might not impeach, impriſon, fine, &c. but now they may, and have; witneſs their unjuſt dealings with the ſeven impeached Lords, eleven impeached Commons, and the four Aldermen: (for the firſt he proved a *Cullion*, and acknowledged himſelf a Traytor, and ſo became capable of mercy, and the enjoyment of fourteen hundred a year, by the exciſe, which if he had not ſubmitted, and kiſſed ſultan *Cromwels* great Toe, he had ſurely loſt: and therefore all things conſidered, *Alderman Cullum* was the wiſeſt man, for what are all the Liberties of *England* worth in compariſon of his office? Alas money will buy him a good name, and ſo long as he is free, no matter who are ſlaves:) But on the contrary I muſt commend the valour, honeſty, and innocency of thoſe worthy Patriots of their Country, Sir *John Maynard*, Sir *John Goare*, *Alderman Adams*, *Alderman Langham*, and *Alderman Bunce*, who for their own Vindication, and the ſecuring the Liberties of *England* out of the jaws of thoſe devouring *Harpies*

ties the Lords, (who study nothing more then to make the people slaves,) have so nobly entered the Lists, and notwithstanding so many disadvantages (in respect of customs, presidents, power and perswasions to the contrary) have continued the combate, and come off, not only unfoild, but with honor, having thrown the Lords Jurisdiction (by them usurped over Commons) on its back; so that unless Englishmen prove the worst of cowards: it will not be possible for the Lords ever to dare to take the impudence to adjudg, fine, or imprison a Commoner more, for which noble act of theirs they deserve to have their names engraven in Marble with this memorial.

Maynard, Gayer, Adams, Langham, Bunce, *did save*
Our English Freedoms *from the very grave*
Of dire destruction; cause they plainly saw,
The Lords *usurp a* Power *above the* Law,
They took the Laws part; and the Lords resist,
And having choak'd them with a Scottish Mist
Bravely retreated, for which Fame intends
To crown them with the name o'th Peoples Friends.
Which to their Generations shall remain
A badg of honor, Time shall ne're obtain
To have forgotten, but shall make them be
The praise and wonder of Posterity.

But for *Cullum* this shall be his memorial.

Here lies a man did Law and fame despise,
Betray'd his cause, for an office in th' Excise:
Confess himself a Traytor, which is moe,
For profits sake did kiss great Cromwels *Toe:*
Twelve hundred pounds per annum, *for to save,*
He sold his Faith, and proved a fawning knave.

But now I talk of twelve hundred pounds, give me leave to tell you that it is no wonder that we are slaves to the Grandees, nay, that we are no more slaves then we are, for you must know, that there are in the City but 24. Aldermen, and at least fourteen of them

have

have fourteen hundred a year by their places, which they enjoy by the favour of the ruling party of Lords and Commons, and where-fore think you is it that they confer such places on them? is it not for the end that they may give them assistance to enslave and ride you when they please. Have they not all along made use of their power and interest in the City, to raise what sums of money they pleased? and if a demand was made for the loan of ten or twenty thousand pounds, would not these men always appear the promoters thereof, and to draw others on, make proffers to lend a thousand pounds a man, which they knew well enough how to pay themselves again, out of the Treasury; but for you, you must be content with the publick Faith, nay, I say, have they not by this means had such an influence upon the Councels and Government of this City, that we have not had liberty to chuse our own Governors or Officers, nor dispose of our own Militia, or indeed do any thing, but what corresponded with the sence of the Grandee Faction, but it should meet great opposition in debate at our Common Councils, and if they could not carry things there as they desired, then presently the power of the Parliament must be made use of to forbid the prosecution of that, which then by their interest could not hinder: Thus are you notwithstanding all your struglings for Freedom, involved in slavery, and yet know it not, for it cannot be imaginable that these men which get so much by the Grandee Faction, as *Gibs*, *Woolaston*, *Fowke*, &c. should ever carry on any other interest than their Masters; and unless you be wise, and force all such Pentionary Aldermen to disgorge, give up their places, or throw off their Gowns, which would be best of all, and chuse honester in their rooms, and also make provision for the future, that no Alderman or other Magistrate shall take upon him any such employment, as the receiving and disposing of the publike Treasure. It is impossible for you to be other than slaves, and so to be liable to be oppressed, taxed and cheated: for if he that hath a sword in his hand shall have power to dispose of the publick treasure, he will not fear to be his own carver, and who shall dare to call him to an account?

But I have found so much knavery in the City, that I had almost lost my way to *Westminster*, which is the very fountain of fallacy; where in the first place I met with a Committee of Condemnation, then a Committee of Indemnity, where I found them robbing

Peter to pay *Paul*: There was a great controversie, and the debate was desperate and dubitable, whether the Keeper of *Newgate* Mr. *Woolaston* should be protected for his knavery, or Colonel *Lilburne* punished for his honesty: I was loth to stay to see the issue, for fear it should have stunk, for it is ten to one but the knave Taylor had the most of the Committee on his side, because there was a knave Lord or two to overlook them, for fear they should do justice and suffer the Rogue to be hanged for his knavery, and then they be put to the trouble to send a reprieve to hell for him, knowing it is impossible on earth to find so fit an instrument to execute their infernal commands.

From thence I went to the Committee of safety at *Darby House* where I found them as safe as a Cat in a Cubbard, hugging themselves for joy at the successe of their Plot, which was as followeth:

I told you the last time how and by what means the tumults in the several Counties were occasioned, namely by the underhand designements of this Grandee Faction, sitting at *Darby House*; Give me leave now to tell you further, that all these appearances by *Goring &c.* for the King, are but delusions, and by designe, thereby to perfect their work of perpetuation of their power.

It is certain that *Goring* is imployed by these juggling knaves, only to engage as many as he can in the name of the King, thereby to give them an opportunity to crush and bring the Kings party so low, that it shall not be possible for them to rise again, which, if effected, say they, it will bring such a terrour upon all other parties in the Kingdom, that do what we will, we shall not need to fear any: And then shall the King be necessitated either to accept of such conditions as we shall afford him, or else we shall be in power to depose him, and either keep the power in our own hands, or set up the Duke of *Glocester*, which will serve but as a Cypher to please the people withall.

Suitable to this design was the late answer to the Counties Petitions, That they would maintain a Government by King, Lords and Commons &c. And that in due time they would take into consideration how to settle the Kingdom. Which I am confident they are resolved of, if this work they have now in hand be but effected, which is as followeth, They will offer to the King such

termes

termes of Agreement as shall serve to secure the power and places of honor and preferment of the ruling party of the Parliament and Army; And if the King will joyn with them upon such an account, they will bring him in; but if he will not, then, they say, they have ground enough to lay him aside, and to set up the Duke of *Glocester*, who shall only have the title, but they will exercise the power as a Committee of Estates: such a Committee as now sits at *Derby House*; and if this should be effected, (which will without all question, if the people speedily interpose not,) all our seven years sufferings have served but as an Induction to a greater bondage and slavery, then what we either found or fear in the King, though without all question if in this way he should prevail, it would be to the peoples extream prejudice.

Therefore my friends seeing we are betwixt two extreams, and that whoever rules we are designed to slavery, let us at last act rationally and shew charity to our selves, as well as loyalty to the King or affection to the Parliament and Army, for certainly it is possible for a King to be happy, and yet a people to be both safe and free; for a Parliament to be free and powerful, but not unlimited, or unbounded, either in its actions or priviledges, and for an Army to be an useful servant, and not an insulting tyrannical master.

But without the peoples union upon common and just principles for the preservation of all just interests, it is impossible to keep a King from being a Tyrant, a Parliament from being oppressive, or an Army from being abusive.

Therefore seeing the quarrel on all hands is, whose interest shall be secured; The King for his, The Parliament for theirs, The Army for theirs; And in all these contests you are only destroyed, and yet no security sought or endeavoured for you; As if your lives estates and children were given you only to be made use of to support the Ambition of a few men, who by flattery and dissimulation have gotten titles of honor and places of profit, which they are loth to part with, or give an account for; And therefore you must be made their Properties, and by them be enforced to spend the fruits of your labour, hazard the lives of your selves, children and servants, only to keep your selves from being slaves to one, that you may be slaves to another.

O therefore dear Countrymen, if you have the hearts of Englishmen, before you again endeavour to drown the Kingdom in a deluge of Blood, consider wherefore you fight, and what will be the fruit of it; and at last consult your own safety, which ought to be the supream Law both to King and Parliament. The peoples safety is the supream Law: then without controversie the Kings power, and the Parliaments too, was conferred upon them for that end, namely to preserve the People, and not as they have done to destroy them.

It is your interest now to consider, what power the King may have that is consistant with your freedom, and what power Parliaments may have also, that may enable them to do the work for which you chose them, and that they be bounded, as to what you empower them, and what not, let them have a rule of certainty, for we see apparently uncertainty hath occasioned all our trouble.

'Tis this must make us happy, this will bring
Peace to the Nation, Freedom to the King.
The Peoples Interest being thus secur'd,
Oppressive taxes will not be endur'd.
Just Peace shall be your portion: but till then
You must be vassals to the lusts of men.
Take then your choyse, be freemen, or be slaves?
If you'l support the interest of knaves,
They'l knavishly reward you, you shall see
Oppression linkt to your posteritie.
Tyrants, and fawning sycophants shall raign,
Justice or Right you never shall obtain.
But if you will be wise, and straight combine
To stand for Freedom, peace and truth shall shine
Throughout your Borders, you shall surely see
All power employ'd for your securitie;
King, Parliament and Army shall declare,
You are supream; and they your servants are,
When you give limits to their lawless wills,
Then, not till then, shall you be free from ills.

FINIS.